

WILLIAMS JESSIE M
79 GEORGETOWN 1148

01/21/81 103703 PRINTER: LI

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9177

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E.O. 12065: NA

TAGS: OREP, PINS, GY

SUBJ: GOG REPLY TO CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI'S LETTER

REF: STATE 050207

1. GOG'S SEALED REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S LETTER
TO PRIMIN FORBES BURHAM (REFTEL) WAS HAND-DELIVERED TO CHANCERY
AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS MARCH 13. COVERING ENVELOPE ALSO CON-
TAINED A COURTESY CARBON OF THE REPLY. TEXT FOLLOWS:
CFA: 14/41/1 MARCH 13, 1979

DEAR CONGRESSMAN,

YOUR LETTER ON JONESTOWN, TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE TEXT
OF WHICH WAS COMMUNICATED THROUGH A LETTER OF MARCH 2, 1979,
ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY THE UNITED STATES
AMBASSADOR IN GEORGETOWN, HAS BEEN PASSED TO ME FOR REPLY.

THE EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 19, 1978, AMONG
AMERICAN CITIZENS ON GUYANESE SOIL CONSTITUTED IN THEIR CHARACTER,
SCALE AND DIMENSIONS THE GREATEST SINGLE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS EVER
OCCURRED IN THE HISTORY OF GUYANA. NOTHING IN THE TRADITIONS OF
OUR OWN PEOPLE HAD TAUGHT US TO EXPECT THEM. THE SENSELESS AND
WASTEFUL LOSS OF LIFE, INCLUDING THAT OF REPRESENTATIVE LEO J. RYAN,
A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMITTEE, HAS DEEPLY SADDENED THE PARLIAMENT AND
THE PEOPLE OF GUYANA. FROM THE MEASURE OF OUR OWN GRIEF, I CAN FULLY
UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE DISTRESS FELT BY THE UNITED STATES

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CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE; AND I WOULD, THEREFORE, LIKE TO
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF CONFIRMING AND REITERATING THE PLEDGE GIVEN
TO YOU BY OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, MR. LAWRENCE E. MANN OF THE
FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IN OUR MUTUALLY DESIRABLE
INTERESTS TO MAKE FULL INVESTIGATION OF THIS TRAGIC EVENT.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, OUR CONCERN HAS LED US TO TAKE A NUMBER OF STEPS
TO DEAL WITH THE AFTERMATH OF NOVEMBER 19. MANY OF THESE STEPS, I
AM HAPPY TO SAY, HAVE INVOLVED CO-OPERATION WITH AGENCIES OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT. SUCH CO-OPERATION HAS BEEN FACILITATED BY A MINISTERIAL
LEVEL COMMITTEE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THAT OBJECT AS ONE OF ITS
MAIN PURPOSES. IT WAS THIS COMMITTEE WHICH ARRANGED FOR THE CO-
ORDINATION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY THE F.B.I. AND OUR OWN CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION DIVISION AS WELL AS THE JOINT MILITARY/CIVILIAN TASK OF
BODY IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE OF COURSE
BEEN MANY OTHER STEPS SEPARATELY TAKEN BY OUR OWN AGENCIES. IN

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RECEIVED BY *[Signature]* DATE 2/26/81
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PARTICULAR, OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE INITIATED ACTION IN OUR COURTS WHICH SEEKS THE APPLICATION OF OUR LAWS TO SEVERAL ASPECTS OF JONESTOWN, INCLUDING THE DEATH OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN. FINALLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT A JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF JONESTOWN.

NOTE HAS BEEN TAKEN OF YOUR DECISION TO ORDER A COMMITTEE STAFF INVESTIGATION INTO ALL OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THE DEATH OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND OF YOUR REQUEST TO ALLOW YOUR STAFF GROUP TO INTERVIEW CERTAIN GUYANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAKING A COORDINATED APPROACH, THERE ARE TWO CONSIDERATIONS WHICH I IN TURN INVITE YOUR TO CONSIDER. FIRST, AND ALTOGETHER, APART FROM QUESTIONS OF PROTOCOL, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

SAME OF WHOM YOUR STAFF MAY WISH TO INTERVIEW, ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE ALSO REQUIRED TO TESTIFY BEFORE OUR OWN JUDICIAL INQUIRY. SECONDLY, A NEATER AND POSSIBLY MORE CONVENIENT WAY FOR YOUR COMMITTEE TO BE

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SUPPLIED WITH THEIR EVIDENCE WOULD BE THROUGH THE REPORT AND FINDINGS OF OUR OWN INQUIRY, TO BE PROVIDED ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. MAY I ADD THAT, SO FAR AS OUR INQUIRY IS CONCERNED, NO OVERLAPPING IS LIKELY TO OCCUR BECAUSE IT IS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT OUR INQUIRY WILL BE SEEKING TO INTERVIEW GOVERNMENTAL WITNESSES IN THE UNITED STATES.

AS YOU MAY NOT HAVE HAD THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IN MIND, I WONDER WHETHER IN THE LIGHT OF THEM, YOU MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER THE NECESSARY FOR THE REQUEST MADE IN YOUR LETTER.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

YOURS CO-OPERATIVELY,

H.E. DYETT

PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,

CHAIRMAN,

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON D.D.,

U.S.A.

2. A SEALED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI CONTAINING THE ORIGINAL OF THE GOG REPLY WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY NEXT AVAILABLE POUCH.

BURKE

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